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For Immediate Release

Water agency conservation coordinator, programs win accolades

(Santa Rosa, CA) — Lynn Hulme, water conservation coordinator for Sonoma County Water Agency, has been elected to the steering committee of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) for a two-year term. Hulme was elected by a vote of the 290 member organizations, and joins representatives on the committee from other California water agencies, environmental groups and companies interested in furthering water conservation.

CUWCC is a consensus-based partnership of agencies and organizations concerned with water supply and conservation in California. The steering oversees the implementation of the 1991 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California. The MOU describes efficient water use best management practices for California urban areas, including the cities and districts the Agency serves.

In addition, SCWA's conservation and education efforts earned four awards in 2002.

- The **CUWCC Wholesaler Hall of Fame** award recognizes SCWA for leadership in water conservation. SCWA requires each local water supplier in its service area to sign the MOU and support the California Urban Water Conservation Council. SCWA is the first wholesale agency in the state to achieve this level of conservation commitment.

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- At the **California Water Policy Conference** in October, SCWA's water conservation program was one of six efforts statewide recognized for making "major strides toward regional or local self-reliance." The conference sponsors, including the federal Bureau of Reclamation and state Department of Water Resources, lauded that SCWA "plans and implements regional water conservation programs for its eight retail water contractors, and has developed a self-sustaining funding mechanism to support water conservation programs." SCWA and the local suppliers have a goal of conserving 6,600 acre-feet of water each year by 2015.
- Also in October, the California Science Teachers Association presented its **2002 Distinguished Informal Science Educator Award** to Cary Olin and Dan Kahane, water agency information specialists. The award recognizes an outstanding science educator in an informal science organization, such as a museum, national, state or local park, or community organization, who has demonstrated a commitment to science education through professional or volunteer work and involvement in professional and extra-curricular science education endeavors. Olin and Kahane designed, developed and implement SCWA's Water Education Program, which provides field study, lending library, classroom instruction, interactive videos and newsletters for students and teachers in Sonoma and Marin counties. The program is in its seventeenth year.
- Along with Marin Municipal Water District and North Marin Water District , SCWA was awarded a "**Blue Ribbon**" from the **2002 Marin County Fair**, in recognition of their combined efforts to sponsor The Water Shed, a 5,000-square-foot exhibit area featuring entertaining, interactive exhibits and educational displays about the importance of water in our life and in our region.

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The Sonoma County Water Agency provides wholesale drinking water to about 570,000 people in Sonoma and Marin counties. Its primary water customers include the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Cotati, and Sonoma; and the North Marin, Valley of the Moon and Forestville water districts.

Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood control and sanitation services for the County of Sonoma. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.

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